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SPECIFICATION

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## ONLINE TRADING SYSTEM

This application claims the benefit of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-233266 filed August 1, 2000.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### 1. Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to an online trading system for extensively inviting purchasers by showing an article to the public online, and concluding a deal quickly by putting up an article to an auction after showing the article to the public for a predetermined period.

#### 2. Description of the Related Art

[0002] In a conventional auction for used automobiles (used cars) and the like, it is a common practice for a participant at the auction (a seller) to bring a used car to a predetermined auction site by transportation means such as land transportation, and to put up the used car for auction there. For example, in the Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. Hei 11-328271, an auction system is proposed in which purchasers can participate in an auction without actually visiting an auction site by providing the purchasers with information on an object (a used car) via communication lines by a terminal installed in a remote location, and receiving bid submission via the same communication lines.

[0003] Additionally, an online trade is known in which a used car is shown to the public online, and a purchaser confirms the condition and a sales price of the used car that is made open to the public and like other information online to order the car.

[0004] According to the auction system described in the Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. Hei 11-328271,

Appendix A  
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(Appendix A)

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Attached hereto as Appendix A, pursuant to Rule 1.121(b)(3)(ii), is a substitute specification. Attached hereto as Appendix B, pursuant to Rule 1.121(b)(3)(iii), is a marked-up version of the specification showing all changes relative to the immediate prior version of the specification of record. Please replace the specification with the substitute specification in Appendix A. Applicant respectfully submits that the substitute specification contains no new matter.

Attachments: Appendix A - substitute specification

Appendix B - marked-up specification